

CURRENT LINE

Fishing Survey Summary

DAR FISHING SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT

February 1998 **SPECIAL EDITION**

“OCEAN STATE” UPDATE

In Hawai'i, the health of the ocean is directly related to the health of our island community. While Hawai'i has some of Earth's best ocean resources we face significant challenges when it comes to protecting our aquatic species. Although Hawai'i has the fourth longest coastline in the US, we rank 48th in the country in fish and wildlife funding. To protect our aquatic resources -- including 410,000 acres of coral reef, 565 million acres of ocean and 376 streams -- only \$4.3 million is invested by the state each year to sustain them.

To change this bleak funding picture, Governor Cayetano launched his “ocean state” initiative during the 1997 legislative session, to increase the budget for DLNR's aquatic and enforcement programs. The Legislature also acknowledged the importance of Hawaii's oceans and streams by supporting the budget increase as well. The initiative resulted in nearly doubling the budget for

aquatic programs, enabling us to implement research projects -- like fish tracking and bottomfish stock enhancement -- to better understand our ocean environment and improve the way we manage these resources.

To be responsible marine managers, our laws, rules and management strategies must be based on sound biological data and broad public understanding of the issues in order to be effective. The ocean initiative has helped to gather some of this critical data. We still have a long way to go. This session, we hope the Legislature will preserve our increased budget and consider strengthening conservation laws and penalties to prevent abuse of our natural resources. By stepping up management and increasing our enforcement capabilities now to ensure “Fish for the Future,” we can avoid the mistakes that have been made in numerous places around the world where entire fisheries have collapsed along with the communities they supported.

Surrounded by water, Hawaii is truly an “Ocean State.” As fishermen, divers and other ocean users know, Hawaii's aquat-

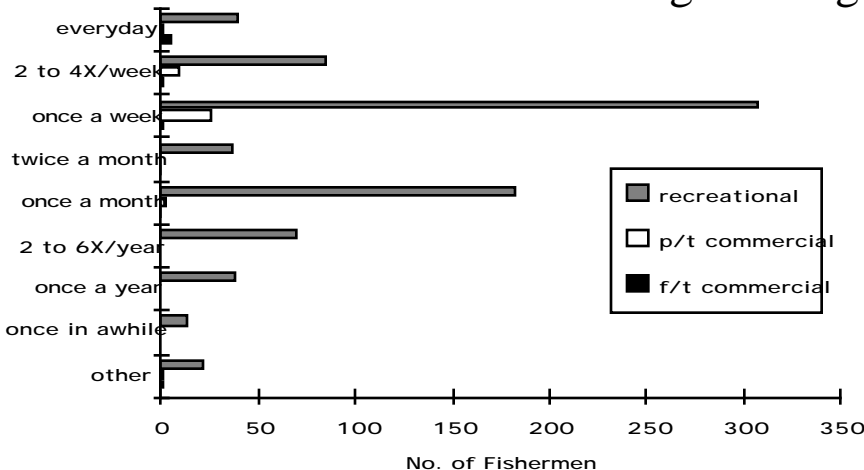
ic resources are central to the state's culture and economy. Our marine and freshwater resources impact nearly every aspect of life in Hawaii from our drinking water which trickles through our majestic mountains, to the oceans which provide us with food and recreation activities that attract both residents and visitors from around the world. DLNR's goal of sustainability is aimed at preserving the quality of life for residents and keeping Hawaii a favored tourist destination by protecting what makes Hawaii, Hawaii -- our incredible island environment!

INTRODUCTION

This Fishing Survey was conducted in an attempt to communicate with some of Hawaii's fishermen and find out what their opinions and attitudes are towards some of the Division's programs, projects, and Hawaii's fishery resources in general.

The survey period ran from October 1997 to December 1997. Survey forms were made available to fishermen

How often do Hawaii's fishermen go fishing?



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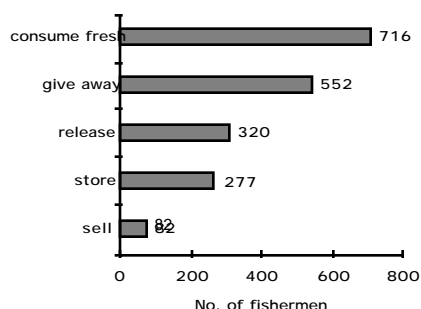
through various fishing clubs, fishing supply stores, and other related organizations. Completed forms were then deposited in drop boxes at fishing supply stores or mailed to the DAR office in Honolulu. DAR staff on Oahu also conducted survey interviews with fishermen at the shoreline. A total of 863 survey forms were returned by December 31, 1997. Most of the responses are from shoreline fishermen, but a few were from those who fish offshore. Due to limited staff on the neighbor islands, the majority of surveys (over 87%) was conducted on the island of Oahu.

Overall, survey results indicate that Hawaii's fishermen are very concerned about the State's fishery resources. They're noticing a decline in the amount of fish that they're able to catch now compared with what they were able to catch 20 or 30 years ago. Hawaii's fishermen are a conscientious group who practice good conservation and management efforts in caring for Hawaii's ocean resources, but feel that the State is not responding to their concerns. In this report, we will attempt to summarize what these concerns are.

Out of 863 surveys, 803 classified themselves as **recreational** fishermen, 46 were **part time commercial** fishermen (less than 50% of income is from catch sales) and 14 were **full time commercial** fishermen (more than 50% of income is from catch sales).

FISH CATCH UTILIZATION

Fishermen were asked what they did with their catches:



The majority of them (83%) consume their catch within a few days (fresh). 64% of them share or give away their catches while 32% store it away for future use. 37% of them practice *catch & release* which is a good conservation method to help improve and maintain the quality of

fishing in Hawaii. This way, fishermen are encouraged to keep only what they need and put the rest back.

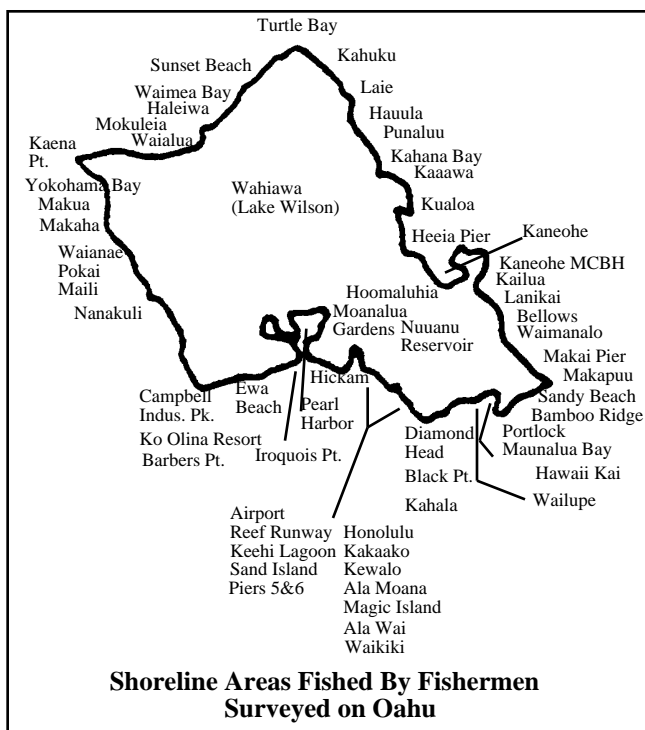
Out of the 277 fishermen who store their catch, 88% (243) freeze their catch, 31% (50) dry it, 16% (43) salt it, and 12% (33) use other methods such as smoking.

With regard to those that sell their catches, about 10% of fishermen surveyed said that they sell their catch. Some of these fishermen indicated that they are recreational fishermen. If this is so, then these fishermen need to be

informed that they are selling their catches **ILLEGALLY** and must obtain a commercial marine license. Any fisherman who sells even one fish is considered a commercial fisherman and is required by law to have a commercial marine license. In addition, commercial fishermen are supposed to furnish to the DLNR a monthly report listing the amount of fish taken. DAR relies on these monthly reports to furnish the State with data to make proper resource management decisions.

AWARENESS OF CIGUATERA FISH POISONING

Ciguatera is a disease caused from eating marine fish associated with coral reefs. Ciguatera fish poisoning is caused by a toxin found in certain algae which is eaten by reef fish. The toxin accumulates when reef fish are eaten by larger fish. Eventually humans eat these fish and may come down with ciguatera. Symptoms include numbness and tingling around the mouth, feet, and hands, temperature sensation reversal (cold feels hot and hot feels cold), weakness, nausea, diarrhea, etc. Since ciguatera is a serious problem in Hawaii, the following question was asked to see if this affected their fishing and/or consumptive habits.



Does CIGUATERA affect your decision to keep/eat any fish?

YES:	504
NO:	359

About 58% of those surveyed are aware of the problem of ciguatera. Fishermen continue to be concerned about this problem while there are still others that need to be educated to avoid illness.

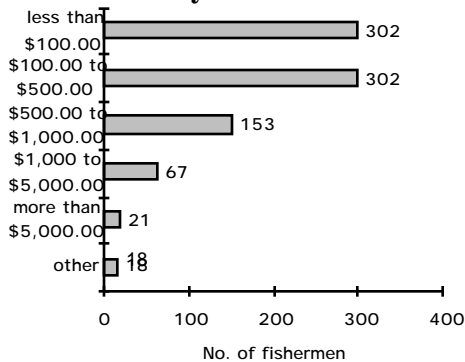
AWARENESS OF THE SPORTFISH RESTORATION PROGRAM



Many of the Division's projects are funded through the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program. Excise taxes are collected by the Federal Government from the sale of boating and fishing equipment and supplies. This money is then distributed to states for use in projects that must have a significant benefit to recreational fishing. Together with state matching amounts, these funds are used to improve and expand fishery projects in Hawaii to improve sport fisheries. Sport Fish Restoration funds finance up to 75% of each qualifying project while the State must finance the remaining 25% required in order to receive the matching federal funds.

Hawaii's fishermen exhibited a low awareness of the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program. Out of 863 fishermen surveyed, only 26% (223) said they knew what the program was and what the accompanying logo signifies.

How much money does Hawaii's fishermen spend on fishing (tackle) equipment per year?



A small portion out of every dollar spent on fishing equipment goes toward the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program. DAR currently receives about \$2 million (equivalent to 1% of the total apportioned) each year for Sport Fish Restoration projects in Hawaii which include the following:

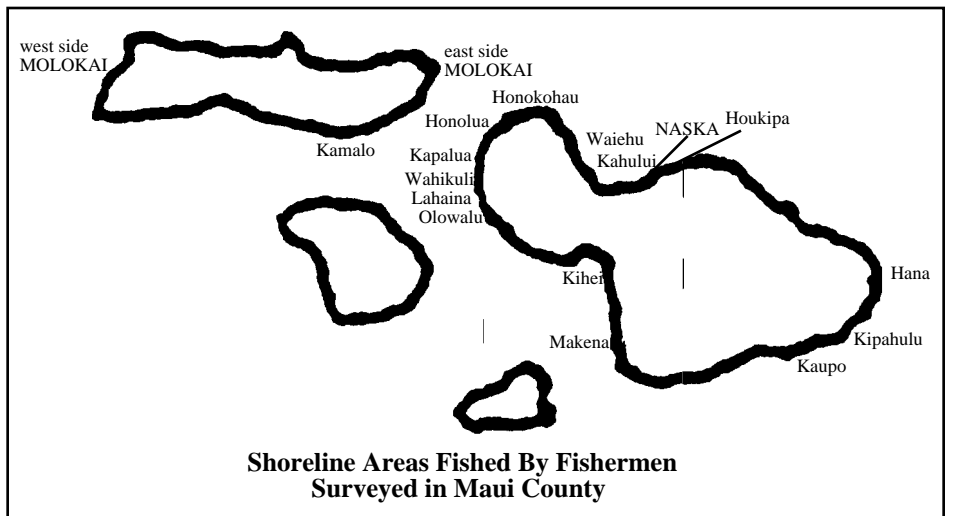
1. Fish Aggregation Device Systems
2. Artificial Reefs
3. Bottomfish Resource Assessment
4. Public Fishing Areas (Nuuanu, Kokee, Wahiawa, Waiakea)
5. Main Hawaiian Islands Marine Resources Investigation
6. Stock Enhancement of Marine Fish in the State of Hawaii
7. **AND VARIOUS OTHER PROJECTS!**

How many fishermen fish in Management areas and projects funded with Sport Fish Restoration funds?

	every day	once a week	once a month	once a year	other
* Artificial Reefs	2	47	75	86	28
* Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs)	10	59	78	93	25
**Other Management Areas	4	20	55	143	7

*only available to those fishermen who have access to these areas by boat.

** areas i.e. Waikiki FMA, Nuuanu PFA, Wahiawa PFA, Kokee PFA, etc.



Would you like to see more of the following:?

	yes	no	no opinion
Fishery Management Areas (FMAs)	582	198	83
Marine Life Conservation Districts (MLCDs)	379	370	114
Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs)	516	170	177
Artificial Reefs	572	143	148
Fishing piers and other infrastructures	624	135	104
Enforcement	631	140	92
*other	74	3	786

* includes more fish hatcheries, stocking, catch & release w/ fingerlings, catch & keep management, trout farm for keikis, better sewage treatments, harbors, fishing permit/license, etc.

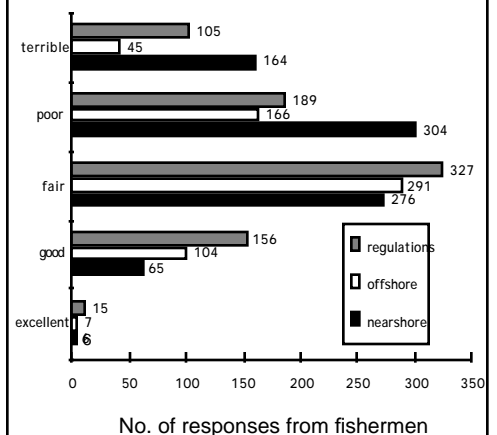
SEMFISH

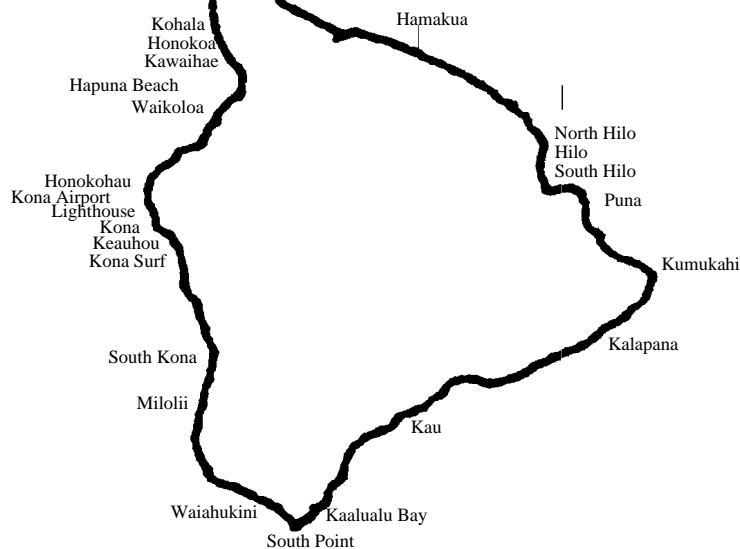
The Stock Enhancement of Marine Fish in the State of Hawaii project (SEMFISH) is another project that is funded by the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program. The goal with SEMFISH is to restore depleted populations of local coastal fishes to improve the quality of fishing. This project involves using aquaculture to increase Hawaii's near-shore fish populations. Hilo was selected as the experimental site because it has the ideal habitat for striped mullet, the species SEMFISH is working with, and it supports a popular local fishery which shows signs of depletion. There are plans to eventually expand this project to other areas and species.

Fishermen were asked if they were aware of this project. Only 30% (255) of those surveyed had heard about the project. This was expected since the project is only on the Big Island so far (Hilo & Kona). The majority of these fishermen answered that they would like to see the project expand to other areas around the State. Areas specified by fishermen for stocking are the same as those areas they fish. Others would like to see moi and mullet stocked in areas that have suitable habitat or where these fishes were once plentiful. Still others wanted other fish species to be raised and released such as omaka for saltwater, and bass for freshwater areas.

OPINION ON HAWAII'S FISHERY RESOURCES

Fishermen were asked to rate, on a scale of 0 (=terrible) to 4 (=excellent), the condition of Hawaii's nearshore fisheries, offshore fisheries and current fishing regulations:





**Shoreline Areas Fished By Fishermen
Surveyed on the Big Island**

The majority seems to feel that the near-shore resources, offshore resources, and current fishing regulations all fall between the poor to fair categories. This is optimistic in the sense that there is still an opportunity to improve the resources. Many fishermen have commented that more and/or better regulations are needed to improve fishery resources while others feel that the current rules are adequate and not the problem. These fishermen feel that the major problem is **LACK OF ENFORCEMENT**. To them it doesn't matter how many rules and regulations are in place. If they can't be enforced, then they are of no value to improve the resources.

Fishermen were asked what kinds of fish **WOULD** they like to catch versus what they end up catching now days (top 15 rated most to least popular based on number of times fish was listed):

Rank	What kinds of fish WOULD you like to catch?	What kinds of fish DO you end up catching?
1	ulua/papio 698 (incl. omilu, white kagami, kahala)	ulua/papio 377 (incl. omilu, white kagami, kahala)
2	tunas 225 (incl. ahi, shibi, aku, maguro, otado, yellowfin, tombo, kawakawa)	tunas 146 (incl. ahi, shibi, aku, maguro, otado, yellowfin, tombo, kawakawa)

Rank	What kinds of fish WOULD you like to catch?	What kinds of fish DO you end up catching?
3	tako 211	akule/halalu 123
4	moi 196	oio 94
5	lobster 157 (spiny & slipper)	all other weke 82 except oama & white weke
6	oio 153	tako 79
7	akule/halalu 135	MISC. 77 (nothing, zero, rubbish, hardly nothing)
8	MISC. 124 ANYTHING!!!	mahi 75
9	kumu 112	moana 69
10	mahi 106	taape 67
11	all other weke 104 except oama & white weke	FRESHWATER 65 (channel catfish, bass, trout, tucunare, bluegill)
12	FRESHWATER 98 (channel catfish, bass, trout, tucunare, bluegill)	hinalea/ wrasses 64
13	marlin 81	ono 58
14	ono 79	menpachi 57
15	moana 66	balloon fish/ puffer 51

Overall, fishermen feel that the fishery resources in Hawaii are just not what they used to be. Fishing on the mainland and other areas outside the state of Hawaii has become fairly popular. 163 (19%) of those surveyed said that they do fish outside the state of Hawaii.

Out-of-State areas fished by those surveyed:

1)Alaska, 2)American Samoa, 3)Arizona, 4)Australia, 5)California, 6)Canada, 7)Cape Cod, 8)Christmas Island, 9)Colorado, 10)Costa Rica, 11)Delaware, 12)Fiji, 13)Florida, 14)Georgia, 15)Guam, 16)Idaho, 17)Indiana, 18)International Waters, 19)Iowa, 20)Japan, 21)Kwajalein, 22)Maine, 23)Malaysia, 24)Marshall Islands, 25)Maryland, 26)Mexico, 27)Michigan, 28)Minnesota, 29)Missouri, 30)Montana, 31)Nevada, 32)New Jersey, 33)New York, 34)New Zealand, 35)North Carolina, 36)Oklahoma, 37)Ontario, 38)Oregon, 39)Palau, 40)Pennsylvania, 41)Samoa, 42)South Carolina, 43)South Pacific, 44)Tahiti, 45)Texas, 46)U. S. Mainland, 47)Utah, 48)Vermont, 49)Virginia, 50)Washington, 51)West Virginia.

Type of fishing done out-of- state:

1)bait casting, 2)barge, 3)boat, 4)bottomfishing, 5)charter/party boat, 6)deep sea, 7)diving, 8)drift boat, 9)dunking, 10)flyfishing, 11)from land/shore, 12)jigging, 13)long range, 14)longline, 15)mooching, 16)off-shore, 17)pole & line, 18)rod & reel, 19)shore casting, 20)spearfishing, 21)spin cast, 22)spinning, 23)surf cast, 24)trolling, 25)whipping

Fish Caught Out-Of-State by Fishermen:

1)ANYTHING!, 2)barracuda, 3)bass (all kinds), 4)big game, 5)black fish, 6)blue fish, 7)bluegill, 8)bonefish (oio), 9)bottomfish, 10)channel catfish, 11)cod, 12)crappie, 13)drum, 14)grouper, 15)halibut, 16)mackerel, 17)marlin, 18)ono, 19)pelagic, 20)pike, 21)red fish, 22)rock fish, 23)roi, 24)salmon (all kinds), 25)shore fish, 26)snappers, 27)snook, 28)striper, 29)tarpon, 30)trout, 31)tunas, 32)ulua/papio (jacks), 33)yellow tail

Cost of License/ Permit Out-Of-State:

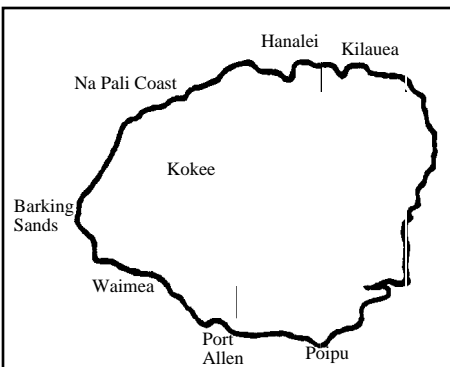
Price Range	No. Paid	Price Range	No. Paid
FREE	42	\$31 - \$40	8
< \$5	10	\$41 - \$50	4
\$5 - \$10	23	\$51 - \$60	4
\$11 - \$20	30	\$61 - \$70	2
\$21 - \$30	13	\$71 - \$80	5
		\$375 and up	2

OPINION ON BANNING INSHORE MONOFILAMENT GILL NETS

Gill nets have always been a controversial issue with regard to fisheries management. Fishermen were asked to state whether they were **"FOR"** or **"AGAINST"** banning monofilament gill nets and why.

Comments from fishermen FOR banning inshore monofilament gill nets:

An overwhelming majority (693 fishermen (80%)) feel strongly towards banning and/or restricting the use of inshore monofilament gill nets. Gill nets are very efficient (at times **TOO EFFICIENT!**) in that a larger amount of fish can be caught with minimum effort compared to being caught with a rod & reel. Nets are indiscriminate and nonselective catch gear since everything from juvenile fish to large schools of spawning fish and even turtles are caught. Once caught, many of these fish and other animals become wounded as they struggle to escape. By the time the nets are



Shoreline Areas Fished By Fishermen Surveyed on Kauai

retrieved, many of these animals are dead. In addition, as the nets are retrieved, pieces of corals, algae, and rocks are torn from the bottom destroying reef habitat. Those fish that are desirable and large enough to eat are kept. The rest are thrown back or thrown away because it was too small, too deteriorated, picked on (eaten) by eels or crabs, or just not a desirable food fish. All of this is wasted because juveniles were not allowed to grow and reproduce, schooling fish were not allowed to spawn, and the rest could have been an important food source for other more desirable eating species. This continuing waste contributes to the deterioration of a balanced ecosystem needed to sustain all fishery resources.

As the human population increases in Hawaii, there are more fishermen who use gill nets. When gill nets are continually set in the same areas over and over again, too many fish are caught till the area is depleted of most species. More fishermen means more nets which will end up catching the fish faster than the fish can reproduce and repopulate itself. With a large island population, there is not enough fish to support an unlimited number of gill nets. Fishermen have seen the population of shoreline fishes go down as more nets are used in these areas. It is no wonder that they feel this is one fishing method that has contributed to a decline in fishery resources and that a ban on gill nets is seriously overdue.

There is **not enough enforcement** to monitor all those fishermen that abuse their privileges for using nets. Fishermen have seen others using illegal mesh-size nets (those with mesh sizes smaller than 2 3/4"), leave nets out too long (over the 4 hour time limit or overnight), not checking (every 2 hours) them, and using gill nets to catch fish during a closed season. Some leave tangled and damaged nets that continue to kill and waste valuable fish resources. The introduction of lower cost machine made nets make net fishermen even more apt to leave their tangled and damaged nets since they are cheap and easy to replace. In addition, some even have the audacity to use their nets right in front of the pole & line fishermen and remove the fish from the area.

In summary, banning gill nets will improve the resources by increasing the populations of fish. This will enable us to sustain this resource for future generations.

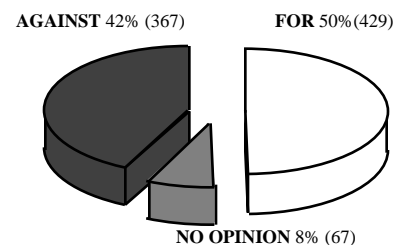
Comments from fishermen AGAINST banning inshore monofilament gill nets:

170 (20%) of those surveyed were opposed to banning inshore monofilament gill net. Gill nets are not the problem. The problem is managing the people who abuse the privilege of using gill nets. If you can control, regulate, and **enforce all ILLEGAL** net activities, gill nets would not hurt inshore fishing so much. Fishing with gill nets is a Hawaiian heritage that should not be taken away, especially for those who are conscientious when using their nets. This is especially not fair to those who use nets to obtain fish for home consumption. If you already don't have the manpower to enforce the current net regulations, how are you going to be able to enforce a total ban, they commented

OPINION ON ESTABLISHING A MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE

Hawaii is one of the few coastal states that does not require a Marine Recreational Fishing License to fish in state waters. Fishermen were asked to share their views on the idea of establishing a Marine Recreational Fishing License in Hawaii.

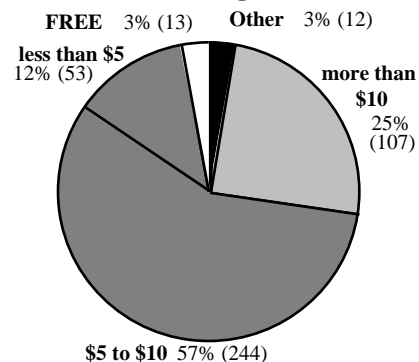
Are you FOR or AGAINST having a marine recreational fishing license in Hawaii?



391 (50%) of all fishermen surveyed were open to the idea of having a marine recreational fishing license in Hawaii under the following conditions/provisions:

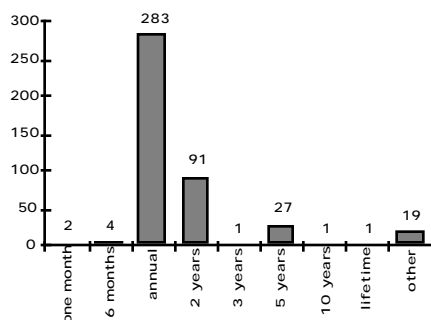
- 1) they **would pay ONLY IF** the money generated went into a **SPECIAL FUND** to provide funding for more Enforcement, more fishery projects like Fish Aggregation Devices, stock enhancement, fish research to increase fish populations, better fisheries management, more education on practicing conservation efforts, run and manage more fishing areas, repair FADs, ramps, harbors, cleanup, etc. --- DLNR is understaffed and under funded.

How much should a marine recreational fishing license cost?



- 2) the license should be convenient and easy to obtain like at fishing supply stores
- 3) fishermen would be guaranteed that fish populations would increase and the quality of fishing would improve.
- 4) the laws be more strictly and better enforced (adhered to). Current enforcement and judges are too soft. In other states such as Oregon and Washington, fishermen see game wardens all the time wherever they go. There are thousands of recreational fishermen in Hawaii that sell their catch illegally. How can the present laws be enforced with the little amount of enforcement that we have?

How long should the marine recreational fishing license be valid for?



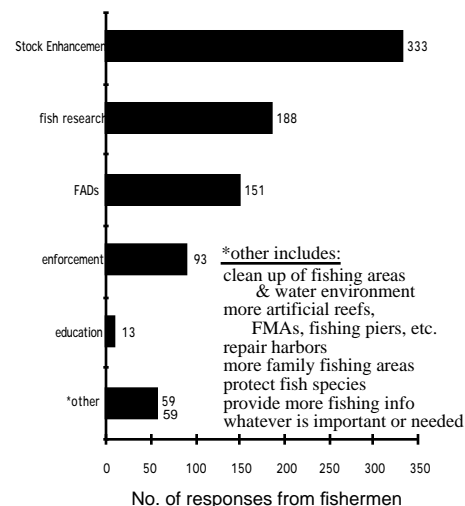
Fishermen's views on how the State would benefit from this license besides generate money:

- 1) provide a count/record of how many recreational fishermen are out there to estimate how they affect and how much of the resources are being utilized. Without knowing how much is being used, proper management cannot be applied to sustain the resources for future generations.
- 2) the license fee may discourage some fishermen from fishing and lessen the total numbers of fishermen which will improve the resources by lessening fishing pressure.
- 3) having a licensed group and some head counts will show the legislature more effectively how many people utilize fishery resources for recreation and that their concerns for more money to be appropriated for fisheries management can be justified.
- 4) Fishing would be more safe for kids and families
- 5) Since a lot of people are uninformed, it's an opportunity for the state to inform each fisherman on the most current rules and regulations. There are too many novice divers and fishermen. Possibly help to inform immigrants that there are limits on the amount of fish that can be taken.
- 6) Help generate a "community" effort if the money goes directly to DAR for subsidizing fishing programs and

projects to increase fish populations around the shoreline. Gives people a chance to get involved with practicing good conservation efforts.

- 7) Possibly receive more federal matching dollars.

What should the fees from the marine recreational license be used towards?



Other COMMENTS "FOR" the license:

- 1) **EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE ONE**, but tourists on charter boats should be exempted
- 2) most other states have a fishing license in place. Having a license works for managing fisheries. Look at other states like Florida. **USER FEES ARE FAIR**. Everyone takes fish, therefore everybody should give back
- 3) **ONLY ADULTS SHOULD PAY**
- 4) should only be required for designated areas such as piers and harbors - **NOT THE SHORELINE!**
- 5) we're already paying for a freshwater license, why not a marine one too?
- 6) commercial fishermen have to pay, why not the recreational fishermen also?
- 7) license should be a one time fee

- 8) should only charge the tourists
- 9) should be for catching certain species only
- 10) every type of fishing **SHOULD** require a license.
- 11) have one inclusive (freshwater and marine) recreational fishing license
- 12) government will mandate the license anyway, so why not?

Comments AGAINST establishing a Marine Recreational Fishing License:

367 (42%) of all fishermen surveyed were opposed to having a Marine Recreational Fishing License. These fishermen felt very strongly AGAINST it for the following reasons:

- 1) there is major concern that the State government is using this as an excuse for more income to fund agendas other than fisheries. Fishermen **DO NOT TRUST THE STATE TO KEEP THE MONEY IN A SPECIAL FUND** that will go towards improving Hawaii's fisheries. Too much political bureaucracy will place the money into the GENERAL FUND and none will go towards fisheries management. They have no guarantee since they've seen money being shifted before. There is not enough information to prove that a license is worth it to help improve fisheries. **WE WANT THE STATE TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE ON WHERE ALL THE MONEY GOES!!!** Why pay for something and get nothing in return? Recreational fishermen don't take enough of the resources to justify charging everyone - there's no fish anyway! It won't do any good or help the fishermen - **WE DON'T NEED MORE WHALE SANCTUARIES!**
- 2) we should not have to pay if everyone obeyed the fishing laws. **WE NEED MORE ACTIVE AND STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF CURRENT**

REGULATIONS. If the State can't enforce the current regulations, how are they going to enforce a license on top of this? This would lead to too many illegal fishers with many that will fish without a license anyway. It will be too hard to regulate. This would be unfair to those who are conscientious fishermen who do obey all fishing laws and more. It's not the people, but the type of equipment used that should be limited or taxed for usage with no grandfather clauses. With today's technology, certain fishing gear are too efficient and changes fishing from being a sport to who can catch the most. **RECREATIONAL SPORT FISHING SHOULD NOT BE A LICENSED ACTIVITY!**

- 3) the fee will seem reasonable at first, then it will increase to a higher cost each year. Equipment already costs too much and we pay enough taxes already in Hawaii. What will be charged next? Surfing, swimming, SCUBA and skin diving? In addition to ramp fees, boat fees, trailer, and vehicle fees, we have a high cost of living to deal with. It would be too expensive to take a whole family fishing just once or twice a year. It's also inconvenient and must be planned ahead of time. The license would discourage fishing. The taxes we currently pay should be sufficient to cover the costs of a fisheries management program.
- 4) a license would lead to more restrictions on fishing. It's just one more freedom the State will take away from us and we will lose control over it. Government is trying to regulate every aspect of our lives in everything that we do.
- 5) establishing a license will cause more problems than it's worth. It won't improve the present fisheries situation in Hawaii due to poor management, lack of funding and staff. It will create more paperwork and bureaucratic red tape. It will be unenforceable with the limited amount of enforcement on hand. If the State cannot enforce the laws they already have, how are they

going to do it when there is the addition of a license? If the State was sincerely concerned about its fishery resources, they would sit down and talk with all the fishing clubs, dive clubs, boat clubs, and shoreline fishermen. They should also look at other factors such as oil spills, pesticide and herbicide runoffs and other forms of pollution that are contributing to the decline in fisheries and not blame the fishermen for everything.

- 6) we should not have to pay for something that is part of our heritage and lifestyle, especially the native Hawaiians. Fishing has been a part of our culture for centuries used for gathering food and to promote respect for the ocean and family values. We should not be penalized for feeding our families!

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS FROM HAWAII'S FISHERMEN

ENFORCEMENT

A lack of enough fisheries enforcement in Hawaii continues to be a major concern among most fishermen surveyed. Fishermen feel that this issue cannot be emphasized enough and felt the need to repeat this throughout the entire survey form. The following are examples of **ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES** that fishermen see repeatedly every day:

1. *net fishermen taking oama and halalu schools in Regulated Fishing Areas where it is prohibited (i.e. Haleiwa Harbor, Pokai Bay, Heeia Kea Pier, etc.)*
2. *fishermen taking more than their bag limit of regulated species (i.e. oama)*
3. *illegal commercial sale of fish by unlicensed fishermen*
4. *spiny lobsters - illegal spearing, taking of berried (with eggs) females, taking undersized ones, and taking during closed season*

5. *taking undersized regulated fish (i.e. papio; tucunare & largemouth bass in Lake Wilson)*

6. *taking fish during closed seasons (i.e. moi)*

It is easy to understand their frustration when illegal activities like the above mentioned are reported and nothing is being done to reprimand and discourage these violators. Some have been fishing from Hawaii's shores for years and have never seen a game warden yet.

Enforcement needs to be more strict and provide stiffer penalties for violators/poachers (i.e. higher fines and confiscation of fishing gear). They need to be fair and consistent.

If lack of money and staff is a problem, maybe the public (volunteers) can be deputized to help catch these violators. Fines can be increased and used for more effective enforcement.

USER GROUP CONFLICTS

As the population grows in the State of Hawaii, conflicts between user groups are bound to increase as more and more people compete for use of limited shoreline space and the surrounding ocean. The following are examples of conflicts between ocean resource users:

1. *commercial and recreational fishermen: Recreational fishermen feel that the blame for the decline in fishery resources falls on the commercial fishermen. They feel that the commercial fishermen harvest everything and leave nothing for them. Longliners and foreigners were specifically mentioned by those surveyed to have more restrictions placed on them. On the other hand, commercial fishermen feel that they take better care of the resources than the recreational fishermen because they depend on it for their livelihood. Why would they want to jeopardize their main source of income? And yet, they take all the blame. The total number of recreational fishermen as well as commercial fishermen must be taken into account when assessing resource*

availability for everyone. Without any numbers, effective management programs cannot take place.

2. *during halalu season, some fishermen leave their buckets to save desirable fishing spots at areas such as Pokai Bay and Haleiwa Harbor preventing other fishers from having a chance to fish there.*

3. *there are too many different user groups in the same area (e.g. Kaneohe Bay and Heeia Pier). It becomes a hazard when jet skiers, divers, canoers, boaters, and tourist ventures are operating in the same area. Someone is bound to get hurt. In addition, noise from jet skis scare fish away and may affect spawning schools. Also, no one knows how jets skis affect the shallow reefs and limu. Zones should be established outside of Kaneohe Bay and other areas for jet skis, boaters, etc.*

4. *some feel that tropical fish collectors are also contributing to the decline in nearshore fisheries.*

OTHER FRUSTRATIONS

1. **there is major concern about the overall decline in fishery resources (limu, fish, etc.).** The amount of fishery resources available has declined considerably compared to just 20 years ago. We must take into consideration that the population and the environment are also not the same as it was 20 years ago. Something must be done to remedy this situation!

2. there is a lot of mistrust and skepticism toward state government and ESPECIALLY the current Administration in regard to fishery issues. Fishermen feel that by approving the Whale Sanctuary, privatizing harbors, and not spending enough time and money to even minutely improve Hawaii's fisheries, their concerns are being totally disregarded by the present Administration. The above mentioned does not help them at all as residents and fishermen especially were not asked for their input or opinion, or disregarded. Even if there was more

money allocated for fisheries, fishermen are certain that it would be restricted and applied toward other pet projects such as golf courses instead of fishery projects.

3. **access to shoreline areas are more limited.** Fishermen request more easy shoreline access for older people, and through properties that do not provide access. It's not fair that only beach front property owners have access to shoreline areas that are supposed to be available to the general public. Also, too many places have limits for fishing and parking such as Magic Island on Oahu and harbor areas. These areas were more available when some fishermen were children. Now their children have even less areas to fish.

4. **fishing is no longer safe for fishermen in certain areas.** The breakwall where people fish at Pokai Bay is unstable and needs to be repaired **BADLY!** The pier should be extended or large stones should be put in place to accommodate fishermen. In addition, harbors and other fishing spots need to be cleaned up. There is too much litter, too many cats, and not enough bins or trash cans to accommodate litter - it's a health hazard!

5. some would like the open season on some regulated species extended one more month (i.e. mullet). Others feel that there should be an open season on turtles because there are too many which attract sharks in certain areas.

6. the proposed ban areas for bottomfish are useless because the fish migrate out of these boundaries anyway.

7. some feel that all unsold fish at the market is a wasted product.

8. fishermen want cheaper ciguatera test kits.

9. eradicate the taape since it is a pest.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM HAWAII'S FISHERMEN TO IMPROVE FISHERIES IN HAWAII

Hawaii's Fishermen **WANT STATE GOVERNMENT TO LISTEN TO THEM** and consider the following suggestions:

1. ban the following:
 - a. spearing with SCUBA
 - b. longlining
 - c. netting of halalu
 - d. sale of speared fish
 - e. sale of netted species
 - f. netting
 - g. gill netting in ALL bays
 - h. trap fishing
 - i. commercial harvest of marlin
2. update current rules and regulations and provide current information to the public.
3. regulate or limit the following:
 - a. one hook per line from shore except for slide bait method
 - b. restrict sales on fish
 - c. establish bag limits for all inshore species
 - d. impose size and catch limits on marlin and mahimahi
 - e. protect species like papio/ulua, then the population should come back like the turtles that are protected
4. more regulated areas and structures to increase fish populations:
 - a. Artificial Reefs
 - b. Fishery Management Areas
 - c. Marine Life Conservation Districts
 - d. subsurface FADs
 - e. build fishing piers to provide safe fishing
 - f. acquire Nuuanu Reservoir to continue providing good and safe fishing activities
5. educate and Inform Fishers - Many do not know that there are rules and regulations for fishing. Everyone from elementary school children to adults, subsistence fishermen and immigrants **MUST LEARN THE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR FISHING!** Promote and support catch and release methods for fishing which will help to sustain our fisheries. This is not as common a practice in Hawaii as it is on the mainland whose fisheries are in much better shape. There needs to be more communication

between DAR and the public. The 'Current Line' newsletter is good and very informative - hopefully it will continue being published.

6. improve nearshore fisheries by stocking more fish.
7. the State is doing a good job managing fisheries considering the minimal amount of staff and money that is being allocated for this. In addition to more funds, perhaps the State can use volunteers (i.e. Jaycees) to provide additional manpower for fishery projects and programs. Have volunteers with public relations experience (retirees?) to lobby for the fishing license.

Would you be willing to volunteer/participate in any fish tagging projects with the State?

513 out of 863 fishermen (59%) surveyed said YES, they were willing to participate as fishermen who would be doing the collecting (fishing), tagging, and releasing of specimens.

8. develop more fresh water fishing areas (reservoirs). This would create more fishing opportunities and reduce some of the pressure on the marine fishery.
9. give more attention to solving the problem of pollution in the ocean environment. Prevent and minimize pollution to provide a cleaner environment for the fish to come back.
10. prevent the introduction of alien species through ballast water or any other means. Alien species can be detrimental to what little fishery resources we have left.
11. anchor fishing platforms offshore for tourists and charge user fees to help pay for fishery programs.

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